

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting/Planning Session
Minutes for Meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2008**

In Attendance: Fr. Gardner, Jenni Petrey, Margie King, Gail Florea, Mike Gehring, George Hilleary, Tony Peter, Susan Zapf, Carol Wright, Wilma McGlasson, Jim Brown

Opening Meditation

January Minutes: Approved

Fr. Gardner's Report:

- There have been three funerals since the last Parish Council meeting in January.
- Planning for Lenten and Easter liturgies is taking place; schedule has been published; ministry needs have been identified and most needs are filled, except servers.
- Father attended the pastors' lunch today (March 6).

Faith Formation: Report submitted by Wilma

- There are nine First Communion candidates, six of whom are from the public school system; First Communion takes place on Sunday, May 4 at the 10:30 am Mass.
- Eleven Confirmation candidates continue to work on preparation for reception of the Sacrament on Sunday, April 6 at 10:30 am Mass. Their retreat will be this Sunday (March 9) in the Parish Center. Sponsors will be with candidates at this time.
- Youth Engaged in the Spirit (Y.E.S.) is the name chosen by the junior and senior high school youth for their group, replacing the name Scripture Alive. Mary Spangler will be coordinator of this group. The group attended the 7:00 pm Mass on Valentine's Day and offered a prayerful valentine to those in attendance. They also helped the Service Club color bags for the Easter Dinner Project and gathered in the cafeteria on Sunday, March 2 to make over 300 peanut butter sandwiches along with fruit bags and other staples offered to day laborers that week. Other outreach opportunities are in the making.
- The Sunday preschool program for children ages 3-5 began on January 13 and takes place during the 10:30 am Mass. Sue Ehrhardt, who is a preschool teacher, has set this up and offered to oversee it for the first year. Nancy Garcia who also works in a preschool has been helping Sue each week. The program will break in May and begin again in the Fall. They hope to have some volunteers to run the program next year. Volunteers do not have to have preschool experience, just willing to offer 1 hour on Sunday mornings, plus about an hour beforehand to prepare for the lesson. This task could be shared by 2-3 or more willing adults.
- StMM's summer Vacation Bible School will be based on RCL's "God's Big Backyard". The dates are set for Sunday, June 22 through Thursday, June 26 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The next planning meeting will be Monday, March 10 at 6:00 pm in Room 21.
- CCD Summer School dates are Monday through Friday, July 7- July 18, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Lenten Soup Suppers have been hampered by bad weather, but enough brave souls still manage to make it for some wonderful soups and fellowship. Considering doing a "Dessert Tuesday" on the Tuesday after Easter.
- Claire Tenhundfeld from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati offered a great workshop on the topic of Church Visions and Ministry. The workshop, which took place on Wednesday evenings for four consecutive weeks, was mandatory for catechetical teachers but was open to everyone. These programs are wonderful for personal enrichment and always have people with great expertise as presenters.
- Our parish youth collected \$824.00 at the church doors for "Souper Bowl Sunday" on February 3. The money went directly to Tender Mercies who have expressed their thanks for our efforts.

Worship Commission: Father Jerry reported

- Reviewed Lenten and Easter schedules and needs.
- Continued discussions regarding marriage rites at St.MM, specifically that future use of a unity candle and aisle cloth will be discouraged.

Building and Grounds: No report submitted

Communications Commission: No report submitted

Finance: Carol Wright reported

Enrollment at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School (our new Regional School), is currently at 714 students with three classes per grade; considering adding a fourth class for kindergarten. Students who wish to enroll in a grade that is considered "closed" are now being put on a waiting list.

Youth Ministry: Report submitted by Gail

- January Game Night was not well attended; PYO will be reviewing this later.
- "Taste of Italy" served 170 dinners; food was great and servers did an excellent job; thanks to all who helped and who attended.
- A group of parishioners served lunch at the Ronald McDonald House on February 2.
- PYO will be attending the Mt. Healthy Christian Home to play Bingo with residents on Saturday, March 8 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm.
- Next PYO meeting is Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm.
- Easter Brunch will be on Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 am; \$2 for brunch, egg hunt, and crafts with all money going to St. Vincent de Paul.
- Dinner and a show with Elvis on Saturday, April 26; reservations required; \$15/person, \$25/couple.
- Eighth grade scholarship packets will be sent out March 31st to all 8th grade students.

Regional School Update: Father Jerry reported

- Name for new school, Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, has been approved by Archdiocese.
- Michael Johnson has been named as new principal; he plans to use the administrative offices in our former school for his work with the new school; it is important to respect his time and privacy.
- Hiring of teachers and staff has begun with a letter of introduction and timelines given to current faculties as well as former StMM teachers and staff.
- Regional School Education Commission has met and will next meet with the principal in attendance on Monday, March 31.
- Representatives from each of the four schools have been meeting to discuss and plan for the new school's sports program; currently planning for Fall sports registration; writing By-laws and Constitution.

P.L.A.N. - Parish Future Planning Update:

The P.L.A.N. Steering Committee reviewed results from the February 9 workshop, submitted by each of the five pastoral area groups. Jim Brown walked each group through the items they needed to fine tune. Through discussion, it was decided that the pastoral area for finances would be rolled into the planning for the Parish Life and Ownership pastoral area and no longer be a separate category for planning. Redrafts will be submitted to Jim Brown by March 21 so that he, along with Gail and Margie, can prepare a first draft of the Parish Futures Plan to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting on April 3.

Closing Prayer: Wilma McGlasson

Next PC meeting: April 3, 2008 at 7:00 pm in Room 21.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz